

Please provide the analysis of how the emergency response water is accounted for in the operations modeling for other benefits per Section 4.11.3.2 of the Technical Reference.

The proposed Chino Basin Environmental Water Program (CBEWP) includes an advanced water treatment facility and distribution facilities that would store up to 15,000 acre-feet per year of hydrologically-independent new local water supply into the Chino Basin Water Bank (CBWB), resulting in the ability to dedicate blocks of water of up to 50,000 acre-feet towards ecosystem benefits north of the Delta in approximately thirty percent of all years. The program will provide up to 100,000 acre-feet of storage in the CBWB, and 100,000 acre-feet of borrowing capacity to provide early environmental benefits ahead of production of the new local water supply, potentially as early as 2020, and additional flexibility in providing blocks of environmental water.

In addition to these elements dedicated to providing environmental benefits, the CBEWP would include supplemental provisions to provide emergency response benefits. During crises, such as drought emergencies and earthquake events that impact or disable regional water supplies, water stored in the Chino Basin would be accessed to enhance regional water supply availability. Specifically, the CBEWP would include provisions to provide up to 50,000 acre-feet of additional borrowing capacity from the Chino Basin for emergency response to the partnering State Water Project Contractor (SWPC). This would be in addition to the amount of borrowing capacity offered for early environmental benefits. The same new facilities included in the proposal that provide for extracting and treating water withdrawn from the Chino Basin and connecting to the distribution system of a SWPC would facilitate this emergency response component without additional infrastructure cost. Because the emergency response water supply is groundwater that has been previously stored in the Chino Basin, these operations would not impact or impede the new water supply and storage proposed under the CBEWP dedicated to producing environmental benefits.

The Chino Basin currently has approximately 500,000 acre-feet in groundwater storage. The Basin is managed by the Chino Basin Watermaster under terms established by the California State Superior Court through an adjudication, providing assurance that stored groundwater will be available for the proposed emergency response operations, and that no impacts will occur to the Chino Basin as a result of those operations. In the event that a SWPC has a critical need for supplies during an emergency, as part of its participation in the CBEWP, the SWPC could borrow up to 50,000 acre-feet of stored groundwater from the Chino Basin. Consistent with the operational requirements of the Chino Basin Watermaster, water borrowed by the SWPC would be replaced with an equivalent amount of water at a future date to avoid impact to the local groundwater basin (per the 2017 WSIP Technical Reference Section 4.4.2). Terms would be developed with the SWPC to provide for reimbursement of the water when conditions return to normal and/or hydrologic conditions are favorable, such as when excess water is available from the State Water Project.

The CBEWP could include significant flexibility in providing emergency response benefits during a variety of emergency events. As referenced in Update 2013 of the California Water Plan, between 2003 and the date of publication of the Update, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California received

annual deliveries of SWP water between a high of 897,000 acre-feet in 2005 to a low of 633,000 acre-feet in 2006. Loss of access to SWP supplies for a prolonged period of time for any number of reasons, particularly after a multi-year drought that reduces availability of water supplies stored in the region, could result in severe human hardship and economic impacts.

For the purpose of demonstrating economic value for this WSIP application, IEUA assumes that emergency water supplies available through the CBEWP are accessed following an earthquake event that impacts SWP conveyance facilities and prevents SWP supplies from being delivered to Southern California. Consistent with WSIP guidance, the earthquake event is assumed to occur once, 50 years into the project operation period (per the 2017 WSIP Technical Reference Section 4.11.2.2). The potential Emergency Response Supply Benefit calculation is based on the guidelines outlined in 2017 WSIP Technical Reference Section 5.4.6.4.

Because the operations necessary to produce this emergency response benefit are independent of and would not impede operations necessary to produce other public benefits (primarily environmental benefits under the CBEWP proposal), it is not relevant to include emergency response operations in the operations analyses conducted to demonstrate those other public benefits, as required by Section 4.11.3.2 of the Technical Reference. Additionally, compliance with requirements administered by the Chino Basin Watermaster would assure no local impacts from these emergency response operations.